(1)

95-4181

Supreme Court, U.S.
FILED
SEP 7 1995

NO. _____

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1995

STATE OF ALABAMA,

PETITIONER

VS.

EDDIE JEROME TUCKER,

RESPONDENT

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

# PETITION OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA, PETITIONER

OF

JEFF SESSIONS, ATTORNEY GENERAL

AND

JOSEPH G. L. MARSTON, III*
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

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45 pp

## QUESTION PRESENTED

Where an officer lawfully detains a party on the basis of reasonable suspicion relating to a certain sort of contraband and observes in the party's possession, a small container which is recognized by the officer as being the sort commonly used to hold the suspected contraband, and the party, in response to an inquiry by the officer about the contents of the container, seeks to hide the container behind his back, may the officer briefly detain the container and inspect it for the limited purpose of determining if it contains the suspected contraband, where such inspection is the least intrusive means available for making such determination?

## THE PARTIES

In the Circuit Court of Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, the Court of Criminal Appeals of Alabama, and the Supreme Court of Alabama, the parties were Eddie Jerome Tucker, who is Respondent herein, as Defendant, Appellant, and Petitioner, respectively, and the State of Alabama, who is Petitioner herein, as Plaintiff, Appellee, and Respondent, respectively.

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NO. _____

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE
UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1995

STATE OF ALABAMA

PETITIONER,

V.

EDDIE JEROME TUCKER,

RESPONDENT

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

---

PETITION OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
PETITIONER

---

The State of Alabama, Your Petitioner respectfully prays that a writ of certiorari issue to review the opinion and orders of the Supreme Court of Alabama in the above cause.

## OPINIONS AND ORDERS BELOW

The order of the Circuit Court of Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, refusing to suppress the evidence found and seized in this case is not reported, and is submitted as Appendix "A" to this petition.

The memorandum opinion of the Court of Criminal Appeals of Alabama, affirming the Circuit Court's judgment is not reported and is submitted as appendix "B" to this petition.

The opinion and orders of the Supreme Court of Alabama reversing the judgment of the Court of Criminal of Alabama and denying rehearing are not yet reported but will be reported as follows:

Ex parte Eddie Jerome Tucker

___ So. 2d ___ (Ala, 1995)

Copies of the same are submitted as Appendices "C" and "D" to this petition.

## JURISDICTION

The order of the Supreme Court of Alabama denying rehearing was issued on June 9, 1995, and this petition is filed within ninety (90) days of said date. This Honorable Court's Jurisdiction is invoked under 28 U.S.C. §1257(3).

## CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS INVOLVED

The Alabama Supreme Court believed that its decision was mandated by the Fourth Amendment and Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Your Petitioner is making a claim under the same said

provisions. Said constitutional provisions read as follows:

"AMENDMENT IV

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

"AMENDMENT XIV

"Section 1.

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or

> immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

## STATUTORY PROVISIONS INVOLVED

The issues in this case do not involve any statutory provisions.

Respondent Tucker was convicted of possession of marijuana in the first degree under Section 13A-12-213, Code of Alabama, 1975. He was sentenced under Section 13A-5-9 of the same Code. Copies of these statutes are set out in Appendix "E" to this petition.

## STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The Respondent, Eddie Jerome Tucker, was indicted by the Grand Jury of Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, in July of 1992, for possession of marijuana in the first degree. On April 15, 1993, he waived arraignment and pleaded not guilty (R. pp. 1a-2 and 24)

The Respondent filed a motion in the Circuit Court of Tuscaloosa County seeking to suppress evidence found on his person and in his automobile. A hearing was held on the motion, and, on August 5, 1993, the Trial Court overruled the motion to

suppress[1] . (Appendix A") (R. pp. 11, 16-19 and 23-24)

On September 10, 1993, the cause was submitted to the Trial Court on an agreed statement of facts. The Trial Court found an adjudged the Respondent guilty as charged. The Respondent was sentenced as an habitual offender to three years imprisonment. (R. pp. 25, 28, and 50-51)

The Respondent appealed his conviction to the Court of Criminal Appeals of Alabama, which, on May 6, 1994, affirmed his conviction with an

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[1]The authorities cited by the Trial Judge indicate that he found that the officers acted on probable cause.

unpublished memorandum opinion. (Appendix "B") The Court of Criminal Appeals found that the officers' actions up to their obtaining and inspecting the Respondent's film canister were justified by reasonable suspicion, and that the Respondent's furtive action in hiding the canister behind his back, coupled with "...knowledge that film canisters are commonly used to package drugs....". (Appendix "B"), established probable cause to detain and inspect the canister. (Ibid.)

The Respondent obtained review in the Supreme Court of Alabama. On May 12, 1995, the Supreme Court, with three Justices dissenting, reversed the Respondent's conviction. The Court rejected the Petitioner State's argument

that the Respondent consented to the officer's action by voluntarily turning over the canister in response to the officer's request, because of the officer's emphatic tone of voice and his failure to warn the Respondent that he, the Respondent, need not consent. The Supreme Court agreed with the lower courts that the officer had reasonable suspicion as to the Respondent, but rejected their findings that probable cause existed as to the film canister. The basis of such rejection was a determination that it was possible to interrupt the Respondent's action of putting the canister behind his back as other than a furtive act and a film canister could contain something other than illegal drugs. The authorities

cited in support of the Court's holding were federal and state cases interpreting the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The Court then went on to hold that the contraband found in the Respondent's car was the "fruit of the poisonous tree." (Appendix "C")

The petitioner state applied for rehearing, but the same was overruled on June 9, 1995. (Appendix "D")

## STATEMENT OF THE FACTS

At the suppression hearing two witnesses testified for the state, and the defense presented no evidence. The following facts are, therefore, undisputed.

The area of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where the incident at issue in this case occurred was known to the police as a high crime area, known for narcotics. Two or three weeks before this incident, the house where it occurred had been the subject of a search warrant which had resulted in the arrest of the owner for illegal alcohol sales. When the police arrived to execute the warrant, a number of patrons of the establishment, who were outside of the front of the building, had

dispersed. Cocaine and marijuana abandoned by these persons was found on the porch. (Tr. pp. 6-9 and 24-25)

On October 9, 1992, Captain Olen Lee and Sergeant William A. Hurter, a narcotics investigator, were on patrol as part of a high profile patrol team designed to discourage crime in the area. At 1:00 or 1:30 p.m, the officers observed a number of men standing around the front of the house, some of them partially in the street. Sergeant Hurter pulled the patrol car to the curb so that Captain Lee was only three feet from one of the men, Respondent Tucker. As he exited the vehicle, Captain Lee noticed a large bulge in the Respondent's right front pocket. Lee asked the Respondent, "...what it was

and would he take it out and let me see it...." (Tr. p.11) The Respondent complied, and produced a thirty-five millimeter film canister. (Tr. pp. 9-12, 25-27 and 31-32)

Sergeant Hurter, the experienced narcotics officer, had seen such film canisters used to hold drugs on, "...several hundred....", (Tr. p. 27), occasions. Hurter testified:

> "Q All right. What if anything occurred after he retrieved the object from his pocket?
>
> "A Well, he held it out and we saw it. At that time, I asked him what was in it. And that is when he stuck it behind his back. And when he started trying to conceal it, after he pulled it out of his pocket, I had asked him to let me see it and he brought it out from behind his back and handed me the canister. At that time, I opened the canister up.

"Q Okay. He voluntarily handed you the canister?

"A Yes sir." (Tr. p. 27)

Opening the canister, Hurter discovered five $10.00 bags of marijuana. (Tr. p. 27)

At that point, Sergeant Hurter advised the Respondent of his rights and obtained a voluntary oral waiver. Hurter then asked the Respondent if he had a vehicle, and the Respondent pointed out an automobile parked nearby. Hurter asked, "...if he'd mind if I looked in his car [,] at which time he handed me a set of car keys...." (Tr. p. 31) An examination of the car revealed twenty six more $10.00 bags of contraband. The Respondent acknowledged ownership of the drugs and admitted selling them. (Tr. pp. 27-31)

## SUMMARY OF THE ARGUMENT

1. This case present an important novel question, namely, where officers lawfully detain a party pursuant to reasonable suspicion and observe a small container which they reasonably suspect contains contraband, may they detain the container and inspect it for the suspected contraband, where there is no less intrusive method available to resolve the suspicion. This Honorable Court has held that under such circumstances, suspicious containers can be detained briefly. United States v. Place 462 U.S. 696, 77 L. Ed 2d 110, 103 S. Ct. 2637 (1983) But, the court has never had the opportunity to decide whether a small suspicious

container may be inspected pursuant to reasonable suspicion.

2. The Alabama Supreme Court claimed to decide this case under the Federal Constitution, but violated every precedent of the Honorable Court on the nature of probable case. The precedents of this Honorable Court clearly show that Sgt. Hurter had probable cause when he procured and inspected the Respondent's film canister.

## ARGUMENT

The Alabama Supreme Court ruled that:

"... [T]he officers were justified here in stopping to question the persons gathered in front of a shot house in a high crime area. See Terry v. Ohio, 392 U.S. 1 (1968). Just as the officers, for their own safety, would have been justified also in frisking those assembled, id, Capt. Lee was justified in asking to see what was in Mr. Tucker's pocket; Capt. Lee could clearly see a bulge in Mr. Tucker's pocket; that, without inspection, could not be conclusively identified as not being a weapon.[2] The

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[2]It should be pointed out that asking the Respondent to remove and display the object was less intrusive than a "pat down".

> question, then, is whether Sgt. Hurter's search and seizure of the film canister after Mr. Tucker had responded to his question concerning its contents by putting the canister behind his back was supported by probable cause...." (Mns. op. pp. 8-9; Appendix "C", pp. 18-19)

The Court then went to hold that Sgt. Hurter's action was not supported by probable cause.

The Petitioner state submits that the Alabama Supreme Court erred in two regards. First, since Sgt. Hurter's action was clearly the least intrusive means of resolving the suspicion about the canister and was by its nature narrowly limited, the action was justified by the very reasonable suspicion which the Alabama Court found to justify the investigative stop. Second, the Alabama

Supreme Court erred in finding no probable cause.

I

IN RE: INVESTIGATIVE STOP

REASON FOR GRANTING THE WRIT:

NOVEL QUESTION

For the purposes of this discussion, we assume that the Alabama Supreme Court was correct in finding that the officers had reasonable suspicion, but did not have probable cause.

In Terry v. Ohio, (392 U.S. 1, 20 L. Ed 2d 889, 88 S. Ct. 1868 [1968]), this Honorable Court recognized the constitutional propriety of stops and brief detainments of persons based on articulable reasons to suspect their involvement in criminal activity. The purpose of such investigative stops is to

resolve the suspicions, and it is, therefore obvious that the authority to make such stops includes the authority to engage in limited investigative activities. The stop must be brief and any investigative must be directed toward the suspected criminal activity.

The question in this case is whether an officer, who makes an investigative stop related to drugs and who has reasonable suspicion that a small container in the detainee's possession contains drugs, may briefly detain the container and examine it to see if it contains the suspected contraband. This Honorable Court has held that a container may be briefly detained on reasonable suspicion, but, although this question

arises in many investigation stops, this Honorable Court has never had the opportunity to decide whether a small detained container may be opened and examined on such basis.

In United States v. Place, (462 U.S. 696, 77 L. Ed 2d 110, 103 S. Ct. 2637 [1983]), this Court decided that a traveler's luggage could be briefly detained on the basis of reasonable suspicion that it contained narcotics. The Court wrote:

> "... In sum, we conclude that when an officer's observations lead him reasonably to believe that a traveler is carrying luggage that contains narcotics, the principles of Terry and its progeny would permit the officer to detain the luggage briefly to investigate the circumstances that aroused his suspicion, provided that the investigative

detention is properly limited in scope...." (462 U.S. 696, 706, 77 L. Ed 2d 110, 120)[3]

See also United States v. Sokolow 490 U.S. 1, 104 L. Ed 2d 1, 109 S. Ct. 1581 (1989).

Place and Sokolow involved luggage, but the Court recognized the propriety of brief detainments on reasonable suspicion, even though the Court in Place recognized that the seizure of a traveler's luggage, "... intrudes on both the suspects' possessory interest in his luggage as well as his liberty interest in proceeding with his itinerary...." (Place 462 U.S. 696,

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[3]The Court also approved dog sniffing in Place, but ultimately held that the ninety minute delay thereby occasioned was, under the circumstances, unreasonable.

708, 77 L. Ed 2d 110, 121) The instant case does not involved luggage but a small film canister. It is most difficult to see how detaining the canister for a few minutes intruded on the Respondent any more than the original stop. Compare Pennsylvania v. Mimms 434 U.S. 106, 54 L. Ed 2d 331, 98 S. Ct. 330 (1977)[4] We submit

---

[4]"... we are asked to weigh the intrusion into the driver's personal liberty occasioned not by the initial stop of the vehicle, which was admittedly justified, but by the order to get out of the car. We think this additional instruction can only be described as de minimis...." (434 U.S. 106, 111, 54 L. Ed 2d 331, 337)

that under Place and Sokolow, Sgt. Hurter was justified in briefly detaining the Respondent's film canister.

Of course, Sgt. Hurter did not merely detain the canister, he opened it and determined that it did indeed contain drugs. This Honorable Court has never had the opportunity to address this issue. However, it should be noted that at issue in this case is a very small container; determining whether it contained drugs required only opening it and looking. There was never any question of, "...an officer's rummaging through the contents of ...luggage ...." (United States v. Place, above, 462 U.S. 696, 707, 77 L. Ed 2d 110, 121.) Thus, the intrusion was very

slight and limited by the very size of the container.

In Florida v. Royer, (460 U.S. 491, 504, 75 L. Ed 2d 229, 241, 103 S. Ct. 1319 [1983]), the Court condemned activities incident to an investigate stop which were more intrusive than necessary. Royer gave rise to the proposition that, in the case of an investigative stop, officers must limit their investigative activities to the least intrusive means of resolving their suspicion. In this case, Sgt. Hurter could not have obtained a search warrant, if he lacked probable cause as held by the Alabama Supreme Court. The Fourth Amendment expressly provides, "... no warrant shall issue, but upon probable cause...." In addition, obtaining a

warrant would have occasioned a prolonged detention of the canister. Sniffing by a drug dog would have resolved the suspicion, but even if a dog could have been produced in fifteen minutes, the intrusion on the Respondent's rights would have been greater than that occasioned by simply opening the little container and observing what it contained. In the final analysis, Sgt. Hurter's opening the container was the lest intrusive way to resolve the suspicious.

We submit that, although this Honorable Court has never addressed this issue directly, its controlling decisions support Sgt. Hurter's actions, even if he did not have more than reasonable suspicion.

II

IN RE: PROBABLE CAUSE

REASON FOR GRANTING THE WRIT: CONFLICT WITH THE CONTROLLING DECISIONS OF THIS HONORABLE COURT

The Alabama Supreme Court's finding that the officers in this case did not have probable cause was contrary to this Honorable Court's teachings on several different subjects. First, the Alabama Supreme Court did not consider the totality of the facts known to the officers; instead, the Court examined each fact independently. Second, the Court

confused probable cause with proof beyond a reasonable doubt

In Illinois v. Gates, (462 U.S. 213,238, 76 L. Ed 2d 527, 548, 103 S. Ct. 231 [1983]), this Honorable Court re-affirmed that the proposition that the question of probable cause is to be decided on the basis of the totality of the circumstances. Yet, in analyzing the factors found by the lower courts to establish probable cause, the Alabama Supreme Court examined each factor separately. The Alabama Supreme Court rejected the finding of probable cause, because the individual factors did not amount to probable cause. In so ruling, the Court ruled contrary to this Honorable Court's decisions on probable cause.

In addition, in reviewing the facts found by the lower courts to establish probable cause, the Alabama Supreme Court rejected several because there was reason to doubt whether the factor necessarily warranted a conclusion of wrongdoing. For example, the Court discussed at length the proposition that a film canister may be an innocent item, i.e. that there is a reason to doubt that a given film canister contains drugs. (Mns. op. pp. 11-12; Appendix "C", p. 24) The Court also pointed out that putting an item behind one's back is not necessarily furtive, (Mns. op. pp. 15-18; Appendix "C" pp. 32-37), i.e. that it is possible to put a different interpretation on the Respondent's action than that perceived by

the officer. In applying a reasonable doubt standard or, more accurately, a "reason to doubt standard" to probable cause, the Alabama Supreme Court violated every principle of probable cause, as well as the very name "probable cause". Locke v. United State 7 Cranch 339, 348, 3 L. Ed 364, 367 (1813); Brinegar v. United States 338 U.S. 160, 176, 93 L. Ed 1879, 1890-1891, 69 S. Ct. 1302 (1949); Jones v. United States 362 U.S. 257, 271, 4 L. Ed 2d 697, 708, 80 S. Ct. 725 (1960); United States v. Ventresca 380 U.S. 102, 107, 13 L. Ed 2d 684, 688, 85 S. Ct. 741 (1965); United States v. Cortez 449 U.S. 411, 418, 66 L. Ed 2d 621, 629, 101 S. Ct. 690 (1981); Illinois v. Gates, above, 462 U.S. 213, 235-236, 76 L. Ed 2d 527, 546-547.

In this case, the officers had the following information:

1. The area was so troubled with crime that their Department had established a special unit to patrol it for the protection of residents.

2. The area was particularly well know for drugs.

3. The location where the encounter took place was in front of a recently raided illegal liquor establishment at which the two different drugs had been found.

4. The Respondent was one of a number of men congregated in front of the house and partially in the street.

5. When the officers stopped,[5] they asked about the bulge in the Respondent's trouser pocket, and he readily displayed the film canister.

6. Sgt. Harter had seen such film canisters used to hold drugs on several hundred occasions.

7. When Sgt. Hurter asked the Respondent what was in the film canister, the Respondent said nothing but sought to hide it behind his back.

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[5]Any citizen can park his car and engage in conversation with persons in a public area. Officers have no less right. No justification was required for this action by the officers. See I.N.S. v. Delgato 466 U.S. 210, 80 L. Ed 2d 247, 104 S. Ct. 1758 (1984).

It can be readily admitted that none of these listed factors compels the conclusion that the canister necessarily contained drugs. Indeed, all of the factors together fail to compel such a conclusion, but that is not the issue on probable cause. The issue is whether, Sgt. Hurter was reasonable in reaching the conclusion that it probably contained drugs. The precedents of this Honorable Court clearly show that Sgt. Hurter's plain view observation of the canister, coupled with his expertise and the Respondent's apparently furtive gesture, established probable cause. Texas v. Brown 460 U.S. 730, 742-743, 75 L. Ed 2d 502, 514, 103 S. Ct. 1535 (1983) (tied off green party balloon); Colorado v.

Bannister 449 U.S. 1, 3, 66 L. Ed 2d 1, 4, 101 S.Ct. 42 (1980) (Chrome lug mats)

Probable cause authorized the seizure of the canister, and the inspection of its contents. See United States v. Jacobsen 466 U.S. 109, 80 L. Ed 2d 85, 104 S. Ct. 1652 (1984).

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion your Petitioner, the State of Alabama, respectfully submits that in this case the Supreme Court of Alabama erroneously resolved a novel question and ruled contrary to the decisions of this Honorable Court in every case addressing the issue of probable cause. In addition, this case provides an opportunity to resolve an important novel question which often arises in investigative stops.

Therefore, Your Petitioner prays that this Honorable Court will issue a writ of certiorari and will review the matters complained of and reverse the decision of

Supreme Court of Alabama.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFF SESSIONS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

BY:

_____

JOSEPH G. L. MARSTON, III

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

ATTORNEYS FOR THE

PETITIONER

1161JM

95-413

Supreme Court, U.S.
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OCTOBER TERM, 1995

STATE OF ALABAMA,

PETITIONER,

V.

EDDIE JEROME TUCKER,

RESPONDENT.

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

APPENDIX TO THE PETITION

OF

JEFF SESSIONS
ATTORNEY GENERAL

AND

JOSEPH G. L. MARSTON, III*
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APPENDIX A

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NO. CC92-2215

STATE OF ALABAMA

VS

EDDIE JEROME TUCKER

DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF RULING

The defendant's motion to suppress is overruled and denied. Authority relied on by this court is Cappi v. State 516 So2d 822, and Pearson v. State 542 So2d 955.

This 5th day of August, 1993.

/s/ Thomas S. Wilson

CIRCUIT JUDGE

Distribution: Court File

Attorneys: Ben Baxley

George Nassaney

APPENDIX B

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

State of Alabama

Judicial Building, 300 Dexter Avenue

P. O. Box 301555

Montgomery, AL 36130-1555

RELEASED

May 6, 1994

Clerk, Court of Criminal Appeals

WILLIAM M. BOWEN, JR

Presiding Judge

SAM TAYIOR

JOHN PATTERSON

H. WARD McMILLAN

MARK G. MONTIEL

Judges

Office of the Clerk (205)242-4590

MEMORANDUM

CR-93-325

Eddie Jerome Tucker v. State

Tuscaloosa Circuit Court No. CC-92-2215

Affirmed by memorandum. The appellant's issue concerning the suppression of the evidence is determined adversely to him on the merits. The officer lawfully approached the appellant under Terry v. Ohio, 392 U.S. 1, 88 S.Ct. 1868, 20 L.Ed.2d 889 (1968). Once the appellant removed the film canister from his pocket and hid it behind his back, the police, based on knowledge that film canisters are commonly used to package drugs, had probable cause to open the canister. Jones v. State, 616 So.2d 949 (Ala. Cr. App.1992); Pearson v. State, 542 So.2d 955, 956 (Ala. Cr. App.1989). All the judges concur.

APPENDIX C

RELEASED MAY 12 1995

CLERK

SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

OCTOBER TERM, 1994-95

1931358

Ex parte Eddie Jerome Tucker

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

TO THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

(Re: Eddie Jerome Tucker

v.

State)

(Tuscaloosa Circuit Court, CC-92-2215;

Court of Criminal Appeals, CR-93-325)

ALMON, JUSTICE.

This Court granted the writ of certiorari to review the conviction of Eddie

Jerome Tucker for unlawful possession of marijuana in the first degree. The issue is whether the search and seizure of a film canister were contrary to the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

On the afternoon of October 9, 1992, Capt. Olen Lee and Sgt. William Hurter of the Tuscaloosa Police Department were on patrol in the area of 1225 6th Alley East, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, an area of town described by the officers as a "high crime area." Capt. Lee and Sgt. Hurter, as well as four other officers in two other patrol cars, stopped at 1225 6th Alley East, because there were five or six persons gathered there in front of a shot

house.[1] The house is located in a black neighborhood and the persons gathered in front of the house were black men. Between the porch of the house and the roadway there is a yard too small to park a car in, and there is no sidewalk. Some of the men, including Mr. Tucker, were standing in the yard abutting the roadway, and some were in the roadway leaning on a parked car. There had been no calls or

---

[1]"Shot house" is a term used by the police to describe a private residence where illegal whiskey is sold by the shot. This particular residence was the subject of a search warrant executed two to three weeks before October 9. Pursuant to that search, the owner of the residence was arrested and charged with the illegal sale of alcohol, and a small quantity of illegal drugs was found on the front porch, presumably left by persons sitting on the porch who dispersed when the police arrived at the house.

complaints to the Tuscaloosa police on October 9 concerning any illegal activity at the house or pertaining to any of the persons gathered in front of the house. Eddie Tucker was not known to either Capt. Lee or Sgt. Hurter before October 9.

Capt. Lee, sitting on the passenger side of the patrol car, was approximately three feet from Mr. Tucker when Sgt. Hurter stopped the car on the roadway near where the persons were gathered. The officers testified that they were not aware of anything illegal occurring among the men, but, as he exited the car, it appeared to Capt. Lee that Mr. Tucker had a large bulge in one of his front pants pockets. For safety reasons, Capt. Lee asked Mr. Tucker what was in his pocket and told him to take whatever it was out so that it could be seen. Mr. Tucker took from his

pocket a black 35mm film canister with its lid closed. Both officers testified that they knew at this point that the object was a film canister and was not a weapon.

Capt. Lee then directed his attention to another of the persons present, and Sgt. Hurter asked Mr. Tucker what was in the canister. After Sgt. Hurter asked this question, Mr. Tucker " stuck (the canister] behind his back." Sergeant Hurter then asked to see the canister. Mr. Tucker handed the canister to Sgt. Hurter, who opened it and found five S10 bags of marijuana packaged in cellophane. Mr. Tucker was read his Miranda rights, and Sgt. Hurter testified that it was made obvious to Mr. Tucker that he could not leave. Sgt. Hurter then asked if Mr. Tucker had an automobile present at the house, and Mr. Tucker pointed to one nearby. Sgt.

Hurter asked if he could search it, and Mr. Tucker gave him the keys. Twenty-six more $10 bags of marijuana were found in the automobile.

Mr. Tucker moved to suppress the evidence of the marijuana, alleging that it was the product of an illegal search, seizure, and arrest. The motion was denied and the case was submitted for a judgment on stipulated facts. The circuit court rendered a judgment of guilty of possession of marijuana in the first degree, pursuant to § 13A-12-213, Ala. Code 1975, and sentenced Mr. Tucker to three years in the State penitentiary. The circuit court's judgment was affirmed by the Court of Criminal Appeals, with an unpublished memorandum. ___ So. 2d ___.

All evidence obtained by a search that is conducted in violation of the Con-

stitution of the United States is inadmissible in a state court. Mapp v. Ohio, 367 U.S. 643 (1961); Loyd v. State, 279 Ala. 447, 186 So. 2d 731 (1966). The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States bans all unreasonable searches. Terry v. Ohio, 392 U.S. 1 (1968). Whether a search is unreasonable depends upon the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Sibron v. New York, 392 U.S. 40 (1969). Warrantless searches are per se unreasonable, unless they fall within a recognized exception. Ex Harte Hilley, 484 So. 2d 485 (Ala. 1985). Those exceptions include: objects in plain view, consensual searches, a search incident to a lawful arrest, hot pursuit or emergency situations, probable cause coupled with exigent circumstances, and a Terry "stop and frisk" situation. Daniels v. State, 290

Ala. 316, 276 So. 2d 441 (1973). Where a search is executed without a warrant, the burden falls upon the State to show that the search falls within an exception. Kinard v. State, 335 So. 2d 924 (Ala. 1976).

The State contends that the warrantless search of the film canister here was justified under the exceptions for searches conducted with consent, with probable cause coupled with exigent circumstances, and as incident to a lawful arrest.

I.

"Consent to a search must be knowingly, intelligently, and freely given." Ex Parte Wilson, 571 So. 2d 1251, 1255 (Ala. 1990). "Mere submission to police authority will not suffice for consent. " Martinez v. State, 624 So. 2d 711, 716 (Ala. Crim. App. 1993) (citing Schneckloth

v. Bustamonte, 412 U.S. 218 (1973); Bumper v. North Carolina, 391 U.S. 543 (1968); Amos v. United States, 255 U.S. 313 ( 1921 ) ). Accordingly, the State must prove that there was no express or implied duress or coercion exerted upon the person allegedly consenting to a search. Duncan v. State, 278 Ala. 145, 176 So. 2d 840 (1965).

The State's argument as to consent is that Mr. Tucker voluntarily showed the officers what was in his pocket and that he willingly handed the canister to Sgt. Hurter. The facts clearly show that Mr. Tucker showed the canister to the officers in response to their directive. Capt. Lee testified about what happened when he exited the patrol car and saw a bulge in Mr. Tucker's pocket: "I asked him what it was and would he take it out and let me see

it." Mr. Tucker complied, producing what the officers recognized as a film canister, and Sgt. Hurter testified that at this point he "asked him what was in it,"[2] and that Mr. Tucker then " stuck it behind his back. "

Sgt. Hurter testified that it was not until after Mr. Tucker had put the canister behind his back that he asked for the canister. Although Sgt. Hurter stated that Mr. Tucker voluntarily handed him the canister, it is evident from the circum-

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[2]Capt. Lee testified that he did not remember the specific question Sgt. Hurter asked Mr. Tucker, but he stated: "I recall Sgt. Hurter asking him for the -- about the container and he stuck it behind him. But at that time, one of the other officers said -- asked me something. They was checking another subject, so I was distracted and I don't recall."

stances that Mr. Tucker was not actually given a choice. During cross-examination of Sgt. Hurter at the suppression hearing, the following exchange took place:

> "A. Well, I asked [Mr. Tucker) to let me see it.
>
> "Q. Okay. And did you say that in a tone of voice that let him know that you wanted to see the canister?
>
> "A. Yes, sir.
>
> "Q. And that you intended to see the canister?
>
> "A. Yes, sir.
>
> "Q. And that he could no longer hide it behind his back?
>
> "A. Yes, sir.
>
> "Q. This was not phrased in such a way that you informed him he had the right not to let you see the canister, was it?
>
> "A. No, sir.
>
> "Q. Okay. And was it only at that point that he brought it from behind his back?

"A. Yes, sir."

It is apparent that Mr. Tucker did not freely consent to the search and seizure of the film canister. Mr. Tucker put the canister behind his back obviously intimating that he did not want Sgt. Hurter to have it. It was only after Sgt. Hurter asked for the canister in such a way that Mr. Tucker knew he should not withhold it that he handed it to Sgt. Hurter. The coercive effect of Sgt. Hurter's words and tone of voice could have only been magnified by the overt presence of five other uniformed police officers and two other marked patrol cars. Therefore, Mr. Tucker's actions evinced a lack of consent to the search of the canister and indicated that it was under at least implied duress or coercion that he submitted the canister to Sgt. Hurter.

II.

The Court of Criminal Appeals based its affirmance of Mr. Tucker's conviction on a holding that the search of the film canister was justified under the "probable cause coupled with exigent circumstances" exception to the warrant requirement. The first element of the exception has been described as follows:

> "Probable cause exists where 'the facts and circumstances within their [the officers'] knowledge and of which they had reasonably trustworthy information [are] sufficient in themselves to warrant a man of reasonable caution in the belief that' an offense has been or is being committed. "

Brinegar v. United States, 338 U.S. 160, 175-76 (1949) (quoting Carroll v. United States, 267 U.S. 132, 162 (1925)); accord Nicaud v. State ex rel Hendrix, 401 So. 2d 43 (Ala. 1981); Daniels v. State, 290 Ala.

316, 276 So. 2d 441 (1973). Probable cause, however, "cannot be founded upon mere suspicion." Nicaud, 401 So. 2d at 46.

The State avers that the following facts and circumstances were known to Sgt. Hurter: The area of the patrol was a high crime area in regard to which there had been past reports of the illegal sale of alcohol and drugs; Mr. Tucker was observed "congregating" with a group in front of a house owned by a person who had been recently arrested for the illegal sale of alcohol; during the execution of a search warrant at the shot house two to three weeks before Mr. Tucker's arrest, a container of crack cocaine and approximately two marijuana cigarettes were found on a bench presumably located on the front porch of the house where persons had been gathered but had dispersed when police

arrived; film canisters are commonly associated with the possession and use of drugs; and Mr. Tucker put the film canister behind his back when asked about its contents. We note that there are also countervailing facts and circumstances, as stated below.

The fact that an area is known for crime may serve to create a reasonable suspicion in the minds of the police that may support a finding of probable cause. Dixon v. State, 588 So. 2d 903 (Ala. 1991), cert. denied, 502 U.S. 1044 (1992). Thus, the officers were justified here in stopping to question the persons gathered in front of a shot house in a high crime area. See Terry v. Ohio, 392 U.S. 1 (1968). Just as the officers, for their own safety, would have been justified also in frisking those assembled, id., Capt.

Lee was justified in asking to see what was in Mr. Tucker's pocket Capt. Lee could clearly see a bulge in Mr. Tucker's pocket that, without inspection, could not be conclusively identified as not being a weapon. The question, then, is whether Sgt. Hurter's search and seizure of the film canister after Mr. Tucker had responded to his question concerning its contents by putting the canister behind his back was supported by probable cause.

The fact that persons have gathered in a high crime area cannot alone establish probable cause justifying the warrantless search and seizure of containers in their possession. This is especially true here, because: the police had received no specific complaints concerning illegal activity in the area of the shot house on October 9; the police had received no

specific complaints concerning the persons gathered in front of the house on that day; the persons were in the roadway or in the yard near the roadway and were in close proximity with the shot house, but were not on the porch and were not suspected of having recently been in the house; the officers had no reason to suspect that those present had been involved in past illegal activity at the shot house; and there was no indication when the police stopped that anything illegal was occurring. We do not totally discount the factor of a high crime area in our analysis of probable cause, but we give it less weight than other factors, under the circumstances of this case.

The controlling factors in this case are the association of film canisters with the use and possession of drugs and the

act of Mr. Tucker in putting the canister behind his back when he was questioned concerning its contents. The State argues that the film canister was a suspicious object because in Sgt. Hurter's experience he had "probably seen several hundred of them" containing narcotics. It is clear that the expertise and experience of a police officer may be taken into account in applying the probable cause test, see Pearson v. State, 542 So. 2d 955 (Ala. Crim. App. 1989), and that the test of probable cause is indeed concerned with probabilities, "factual and practical considerations of everyday life on which reasonable and prudent men, not legal technicians, act." Brinegar, supra, 338 U.S. at 175.

Reliance on an officer's special expertise and experience, however, "most

commonly occurs when an officer is able to identify some illegal substance by smell or by sight because of his training or experience in making such identifications," when a layman would not be qualified to identify the substance. W. La Fave, 1 Search and Seizure § 3.2(c) at 571-72 (2d ed. 1987). The appearance of crack cocaine and the difference in appearance between a marijuana cigarette and a hand-rolled tobacco cigarette are examples. See Peole v. Poole, 48 Cal. App. 3d 881, 122 Cal. Rptr. 87 (1975). We again note that, although the determination of probable cause may involve probabilities, mere suspicion is insufficient to support a finding of probable cause.

Here Sgt. Hurter's experience was that, as a narcotics officer, he had seen many film canisters containing narcotics.

Setting aside for the moment Mr. Tucker's act of putting the canister behind his back, we find no other facts to support a conclusion that this particular canister contained narcotics. Mr. Tucker was not previously known to the officers, there had been no reports of drug dealings at the shot house on October 9, there had been no complaints concerning the persons gathered in front of the shot house on that day, and, when asked, Mr. Tucker did not hesitate to show the officers that the object in his pocket was a film canister and not a weapon. Additionally, there was no indication that anything illegal was occurring as the police arrived: the police witnessed no transactions between the men assembled, they smelled no smoke when they exited the car, and they saw no one leave at their arrival.

Drugs may be possessed and transported in all kinds of containers. Anyone may purchase 35mm film in canisters at a retail store. The primary purpose of film canisters is to hold film, and all such canisters are at least initially used for that purpose. The fact that an officer has first-hand experience with film canisters containing narcotics cannot provide probable cause to open each film canister he may encounter. Nor does the added factor that a film canister is found on a person in a high crime area provide probable cause to open it without a more articulable basis upon which a reasonable person could conclude that the particular canister contained narcotics. Allowing a search in such a situation without requiring a more articulable basis, would be

allowing a warrantless search based upon mere suspicion.

Eaton v. State, 45 Ala. App. 464, 231 So. 2d 918 (Ala. Crim. App. 1970), is instructive. In Eaton, a policeman saw the defendant driving a car; the policeman knew that the defendant did not have a valid driver's license and that the car had an improper license plate. The policeman had arrested the defendant on previous occasions for possessing prohibited liquor. The policeman attempted to pull the defendant over, but he sped away. After a chase, the defendant wrecked the car and fled on foot. Upon approaching the defendant's car, the policeman saw two empty Dr. Pepper soft drink cartons on the back seat of the automobile. Apparently, such cartons were commonly associated with the transportation and possession of prohibit-

ed liquors, because the State argued that their presence, taken with the policeman's knowledge of the defendant's past conduct, was sufficient to establish probable cause to search the automobile for illegal liquor. In holding that the policeman's warrantless search of the defendant's automobile trunk was illegal, the Court of Criminal Appeals stated:

> "Dr. Pepper cartons are not, per se, incriminating. The record is not entirely clear as to what kind of Dr. Pepper cartons and jugs these were; however, we presume that any individual may purchase containers for non- alcoholic beverages at retail outlets.
>
> ". . . .
>
> "In determining whether there is probable cause to search, [we are not permitted) to consider the fruits of the search. Admittedly, the other facts known to Agent Hadden might arouse his suspicion, but suspicion alone will not justify a search."

45 Ala. App. at 466-67, 231 So. 2d at 920.

The State argues that the facts of this case are directly analogous to those in Pearson, supra, a case cited in the unpublished memorandum of the Court of Criminal Appeals. In that case the defendant and a companion were sitting in a Chevrolet Camaro automobile parked on a street often used for parking for a nearby bar. Two agents of the West Alabama Narcotics Squad were on patrol in that area and noticed when they drove past the car that the occupants " appeared to be nervous at our presence. " Based upon their experience and upon their knowledge of the area, the agents suspected that the occupants were drinking, and the officers stopped to investigate. One officer approached the passenger-side door and began talking with the occupants. The other officer walked to

the driver's door and shone his flashlight into the car. He saw the defendant attempt to conceal a 35mm film canister under the driver's seat. The canister would not fit under the seat, so the defendant put it on the floorboard. The officer also saw a pack of rolling papers and two or three loose papers lying on the floorboard. The officer opened the driver's door, seized the canister, opened it, and found that it contained marijuana.

The Court of Criminal Appeals affirmed the defendant's conviction for possession of marijuana, holding that the warrantless search and seizure of the canister were based upon probable cause. The court stated:

> "The facts constituting that probable cause are the suspicious conduct of the passengers of the Camaro, the location of the Camaro in an area where it

> was not uncommon for patrons of a bar to sit in their cars and drink, the defendant's suspicious conduct in attempting to conceal the film container, the presence of the rolling papers, and the agent's personal knowledge that both film containers and rolling papers were commonly associated with the possession and use of controlled substances."

Pearson, 542 So. 2d at 956. The "defendant's suspicious conduct in attempting to conceal the film container" will be addressed below. Putting that conduct aside for the moment, we find that the presence of the rolling papers was essential to the officer's determination that the film canister was suspicious. The rolling papers observed in close proximity with the film canister provided an articulable basis upon which a reasonable person could conclude that the canister contained narcotics. The officer's experience also came

into play; observing these objects together would justify his conclusion that it was very probable that the canister contained marijuana. Pearson is distinguishable from the present case because, as discussed above, in the present case there was no evidence indicating that this particular canister contained narcotics and the import of Eaton is that possession of a readily available, multipurpose object, such as a film canister, is not per se incriminating or suspicious even if it may commonly be associated with contraband.

Thus, the fact that Mr. Tucker was present in front of a shot house in a high crime area and the fact that he possessed there a film canister do not by themselves, or taken together, constitute sufficient "facts and circumstances" upon which to base a finding of probable cause

to search the canister. The final factor to be considered, then, is the effect of Mr. Tucker's act of putting the canister behind his back when he was questioned concerning its contents. The State characterizes this act as a " furtive movement " evidencing mens rea. The United States Supreme Court has stated:

> "[D]eliberately furtive actions and flight at the approach of strangers or law officers are strong indicia of mens rea, and when coupled with specific knowledge on the part of the officer relating the suspect to the evidence of crime, they are proper factors to be considered in the decision to make an arrest."

Sibron, 392 U.S. at 66-67 (citations omitted). Professor La Fave has commented upon this language as follows:

> "Thus, if the police see a person in possession of a highly suspicious object or some object which is not identifiable but

> which because of other circumstances is reasonably suspected to be contraband, and then observe that person make an apparent attempt to conceal that object from police view, probable cause is then present.

W. LaFave, 2 Search and Seizure, Section 3.6(d) at 58 (2d ed. 1987).

Mr. Tucker argues that the act of putting the canister behind his back was not furtive but was a manifestation of an expectation of privacy in the canister[3], that is, a nonverbal sig-

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[3]The Fourth Amendment protects reasonable expectations of privacy. California v. Ciraolo, 476 U.S. 207 (1986); Smith v. Maryland, 442 U.S. 735 (1979). The State has not argued that Mr. Tucker's expectation of privacy in the film canister was unreasonable. We note that the film canister in this case could be considered a "personal effect," as it was in Mr. Tucker's pocket and was a closed opaque con-
(Footnote Continued)

nal to Sgt. Hurter that he did not want to answer the question concerning the canister's contents and that he did not want Sgt. Hurter to take the canister. This is a close issue, but in the circumstances of this case, we find Mr. Tucker's argument persuasive. Initially, it is obvious that the Fourth Amendment would be meaningless if every act asserting privacy in one's personal effects were taken to indicate a mens rea justifying a finding of probable cause. The question, then, is the proper characterization of Mr. Tucker's act.

The language of the Supreme Court set out above, as well as the cases from our

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(Footnote Continued)
tainer designed to contain film, a potentially personal item, and could be used to contain other small potentially personal items, such as medication, coins, or keys.

Court of Criminal Appeals applying this language, implies that furtive movement, in the instances in which it is not simply running away, is typically some stealthy act to conceal an object from initial view by the police or by strangers or to quickly dispose of the object. The attempt by Pearson to conceal the film canister under the seat of his car is an example of such a stealthy act of concealment from initial view. Pearson, supra. See Jones v. State, 616 So. 2d 949 (Ala. Crim. App. 1993); Lewis v. State, 518 So. 2d 214 (Ala. Crim. App. 1987); cf. Grubbs v. State, 602 So. 2d 498 (Ala. Crim. App. 1992); Wright v. State, 601 So. 2d 1095 (Ala. Crim. App. 1991); Lamar v. State, 578 So. 2d 1382 (Ala. Crim. App.), cert. denied, 596 So. 2d 659 (Ala. 1991); Stanfield v. State, 529 So. 2d 1053 (Ala. Crim. App. 1988).

This type of conduct is consistent with a mens rea. The conduct of Mr. Tucker here, however, is distinguishable; the facts do not show that Mr. Tucker fled, resisted showing the police what was in his pocket, attempted to hide or to drop the canister, or otherwise attempted to prevent the police from initially observing the object in his pocket. Both Capt. Lee and Sgt. Hurter acknowledged that when Mr. Tucker removed the object from his pocket they recognized it as a film canister.

If Mr. Tucker had responded to Sgt. Hurter's question concerning the contents of the canister by putting it back in his pocket, it seems clear that this would have been a manifestation of his right to privacy in the object rather than an indication of a mens rea. Putting the canister behind his back is not so unlike returning

it to his pocket that we must conclude that the act was furtive and indicative of a mens rea. The events involving Mr. Tucker and the police occurred in broad daylight, with approximately as many police officers present as persons gathered in front of the shot house. Sgt. Hurter testified as to the act: "Just appeared to me that he was trying to conceal it from me." Many measures taken to secure privacy in an object may be in some sense "concealment," but here Mr. Tucker could not have concealed the canister by putting it behind his back, because he was in the presence of several police officers and at least two of the officers already knew that he had the canister. The facts do not show that Mr. Tucker attempted to remove the contents of the canister while it was behind his back or that he acted in any

manner that would indicate that the canister contained contraband. Therefore, Mr. Tucker's act was not furtive movement that would support a finding of probable cause to search the canister without a warrant.

The State argues that Jones, supra is directly applicable to these facts. In Jones, two police officers were patrolling a high crime area. One officer stopped to question a man who had an open container of beer. The other officer proceeded and observed the defendant and several other men sitting on automobiles in a parking area. The men were watching the first officer and did not see the other approach. The approaching officer saw the defendant pull "what appeared to be a small plastic bag containing a white substance out of his pocket," drop it on the ground, and kick it under the back of a

car. In affirming the defendant's conviction for possession of cocaine, the Court of Criminal Appeals held that the furtive gestures supported a finding of probable cause to arrest the defendant. Jones, 616 So. 2d at 950-51.

The facts of Jones are distinguishable from those in the present case: the defendant in Jones was attempting to conceal the object from initial observation by the police, but here the police officers knew what the object was before the allegedly furtive movement occurred; in Jones the contents of the bag were visible and were highly suspicious, but here the contents were not visible and the object was not per se incriminating; and the gesture itself in Jones was to dispose of the object when police were seen in the area, whereas here Mr. Tucker's gesture

was to put the previously recognized object behind his back in response to a question concerning its contents. Thus, the circumstances and the gesture involved in Jones were more in the nature of a furtive attempt to conceal contraband from a police officer's initial view than in the nature of an assertion of a privacy right in a personal effect; the opposite is true in the present case. Admittedly the line is difficult to draw, but on the facts of this case it must be drawn to preserve the rights guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment.

Therefore, the facts known to and the circumstances observed by Sgt. Hurter did not supply probable cause to search and seize the film canister without a warrant; thus, we need not address the second ele-

ment of the exception, exigent circumstances.

III.

The State argues that the search and seizure of the film canister was also justified under the "search incident to a lawful arrest" exception to the warrant requirement. This argument is based upon the contention that Sgt. Hurter had probable cause to arrest Mr. Tucker once he put the canister behind his back in response to the question concerning its contents. Our Court of Criminal Appeals has stated:

> "The amount of evidence required to establish probable cause to search is essentially the same as probable cause to arrest. The difference is when determining probable cause to arrest, the probability relates to the suspect's commission of a crime rather than the probability of finding the object of the search."

State v. Calhoun, 502 So. 2d 795, 802 n.1 (Ala. Crim. App. 1986), aff'd Part, rev'd part, 502 So. 2d 808 (Ala. 1986), remand, 802 So. 2d 817 (Ala. Crim. App. 1987). "[A] search incident to a lawful arrest may not precede the arrest and serve as part of its justification." Sibron, 392 U.S. at 67. Sgt. Hurter testified that he did not arrest or even intend to arrest Mr. Tucker until after he opened the film canister and saw what he suspected to be marijuana. As noted above, the facts and circumstances here were insufficient to support a finding of probable cause to search; any finding of probable cause to arrest would be based upon the same facts and circumstances. Thus, the State's argument is without merit.

IV.

The State contends that the discovery of marijuana in the film canister presented probable cause to search Mr. Tucker's automobile, citing Stanfield, supra, 529 So. 2d 1053. Thus, the search of the automobile was necessarily predicated upon what we have determined to be an unlawful search and seizure of the film canister. The marijuana found in Mr. Tucker's automobile, then, is also subject to the exclusionary rule under the "fruit of the poisonous tree" doctrine. Duncan, supra. The State's argument as to consent is likewise groundless; Sgt. Hurter would have had no justification or motivation to ask whether Mr. Tucker had an automobile and whether he could search it if the marijuana in the canister had not been previously discovered by the unlawful search. The marijuana

found in the film canister and in Mr. Tucker's automobile was the product of a warrantless search and seizure that were not within any of the exceptions to the warrant requirement. The search and seizure were therefore illegal. For the foregoing reasons, the judgment of the Court of Criminal Appeals is reversed.

REVERSED AND REMANDED.

Hornsby, C. J., and Shores, Houston, and Cook, JJ., concur.

Maddox, Ingram, and Butts, JJ., dissent.

MADDOX, JUSTICE (dissenting).

The Supreme Court of the United States, in the last few years, has substantially modified the law relating to searches and seizures. In determining the reasonableness of a search, judges must consider the totality of the circumstances surrounding the search and seizure, and must apply the rule of law set out in, United States v. Cortez 449 U.S. 411, 418 (1981):

> "The process does not deal with hard certainties but with probabilities. . . . [T]he evidence thus collected must be seen and weighed not in terms of library analysis by scholars, but as understood by those versed in the field of law enforcement."

It appears to me that my colleagues have weighed the evidence here "in terms of library analysis by scholars" and have not accorded the proper weight to the testimo-

ny of "those versed in the field of law enforcement."

My colleagues cite the "furtive movement rule" as set out in Sibron v. New York, 392 U.S. 40, 66-67 (1968), where the Court said:

> "[D]eliberately furtive actions and flight at the approach of strangers or law officers are strong indicia of mens rea, and when coupled with specific knowledge on the part of the officer relating the suspect to the evidence of crime, they are proper factors to be considered in the decision to make an arrest. Brinegar v. United States, 338 U.S. 160 (1949); Husty v. United States, 282 U.S. 694 (1931); see Henry v. United States,361 U.S. 98, 103 (1959)."

They seemingly fail to apply the rule; however, instead, they accept, substantially, if not totally, the defendant's argument that he had a right to privacy in the film canister that is the

subject of the search and seizure in this case. They write:

> "[The defendant] argues that the act of putting the canister behind his back was not furtive but a manifestation of an expectation of privacy in the canister, [footnote omitted] that is, a nonverbal signal to Sgt. Hurter that he did not want to answer the question concerning the canister's contents and that he did not want Sgt. Hurter to take the canister. This is a close issue, but in the circumstances of this case, we find [the defendant's] argument persuasive. Initially, it is obvious that the Fourth Amendment would be meaningless if every act asserting privacy in one's private effects were taken to indicate a mens rea justifying a finding of probable cause. The question, then, is the proper characterization of [the defendant's] act.
>
> " The language of the Supreme Court set out above, as well as the cases from our Court of Criminal Appeals applying this language, implies that furtive movement, in the instances in which it is not simply running away, is typically some stealthy act to conceal an object from initial view by the police or by

strangers or to quickly dispose of the object. The attempt by Pearson to conceal the film canister under the seat of his car is an example of such a stealthy act of concealment from initial view. Pearson, [542 So.2d 955 (Ala. Crim. App. 1989)]. See Jones v. State, 616 So. 2d 949 (Ala. Crim. App. 1993); Lewis v. State, 518 So. 2d 214 (Ala. Crim. App. 1987); cf. Grubbs v. State, 602 So. 2d 498 (Ala. Crim. App. 1992); Wriht v. State, 601 So. 2d 1095 (Ala. Crim. App. 1991); Lamar v. State, 578 So. 2d 1382 (Ala. Crim. App. ), cert. denied, 596 So.2d 659 (Ala.1991); Stanfield v. State, 529 So. 2d 1053 (Ala. Crim. App. 1988). This type of conduct is consistent with a mens rea. The conduct of Mr. Tucker here, however, is distinguishable; the facts do not show that Mr. Tucker fled, resisted showing the police what was in his pocket, attempted to hide or to drop the canister, or otherwise attempted to prevent the police from initially observing the object in his pocket. Both Capt. Lee and Sgt. Hurter acknowledged that when Mr. Tucker removed the object from his pocket they recognized it as a film canister."

___So. 2d ___ at In its footnote 3, the majority also states:

> "The Fourth Amendment protects reasonable expectations of privacy. California v. Ciraolo, 476 U.S. 207 (1986); Smith v. Maryland, 442 U.S. 735 (1979). The State has not argued that [the defendant's] expectation of privacy in the film canister was unreasonable. We note that the film canister in this case could be considered a 'personal effect,' as it was in [the defendant's] pocket and was a closed opaque container designed to contain film, a potentially personal item, and could be used to contain other small potentially personal items, such as medication, coins, or keys."

___ So.2d___ at In making this determination, my colleagues apply a "hyper-technical" examination of the facts, and deal in "possibilities" rather than "probabilities," and, unfortunately, they do exactly what the Supreme Court of the United States, in Cortez, supra, said should not be done. That is, they have dissected the

evidence and have technically inspected it, but they have given little weight to the testimony of the police officers, who are charged with the enforcement of the State's drug laws, to the effect that film canisters are commonly associated with the possession and use of drugs and that the defendant, when he was confronted by the officers, made a furtive movement that suggested to them the concealment of contraband.

It appears to me that my colleagues have erred in two ways: 1) they have misapplied the law of "furtive movement," as set out by the Supreme Court in Sibron and

in several Alabama cases[4]; and 2)

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[4]I cite a few cases and excerpts from those opinions to show that the majority errs.

In Ellis v. State, 428 So.2d 142, 145 (Ala. Crim. App. 1982), the court said:

> "The furtive movements of appellant in discarding the box as well as his walking toward his truck thereafter are also legitimate circumstances to consider in determining whether probable cause existed. See Shipman v. State, 291 Ala. 484, 282 So.2d 700 (1973); see generally United States v. Mendenhall, [466 U.S. 544 (1980)]."

(Emphasis added.) In Vogel v. State, 426 So.2d 863, 875 (Ala. Crim. App. 1980), the court held:

> "It is recognized that 'deliberately furtive actions * * * at the approach of strangers or law officers are strong indicia or mens rea,' Sibron v. New York, [392 U.S. 40 (1968)], and in this regard we note the actions of appellants, notably Robert Vogel, in 'hurriedly' slamming the trunk lid shut, remaining at or near the trunk, and resisting all

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they have applied a "library analysis" in

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> efforts to open it, sometimes violently. While the mere fact of closing the trunk alone is capable of many innocent connotations, when seen in the light of the accompanying actions, a high degree of suspicion attaches. Cf., Daniels v. State, [290 Ala. 316, 276 So.2d 441 (1973)] [passenger of stopped car tossed box onto back ledge at approach of police], and cases therein cited; People v. Superior Court of Yolo County, 3 Cal3d 807, 91 Cal. Rptr. 729, 478 P.2d 449 (1970) [mere gesture toward seat or floor not sufficient in itself], and cases therein cited; Annot., 45 A.L.R.3d 581 (1972)."

(Emphasis added.)

In Dixon v. State, 588 So.2d 903 (Ala. 1991), this Court wrote:

> "The fact that an area is known for crime can serve to create a reasonable suspicion. See Lewis v. State, 518 So.2d 214, 217 (Ala.Cr.App. 1987). Dixon's deliberately furtive actions and flight at the approach of a police officer 'are strong indicia of mens rea, and when coupled with

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determining the defendant's right to priva-

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specific knowledge on the part of the officer relating the suspect to the evidence of the crime, they are proper factors to be considered in the decision to make an arrest.' Molina v. State, 533 So.2d 701, 707 (Ala.Cr.App. 1988), quoting Sibron v. New York, 392 U.S. 40, 66, 88 S.Ct. 1889, 1904, 20 L.Ed.2d 917 (1968). Also, evasive answers to police questions have been held to be a factor in establishing probable cause. See Childress v. State, 455 So.2d 175 (Ala.Cr.App. 1984). Dixon's reply to Echols's question 'What are you doing?' was that he was 'just standing there.' Certainly, this evasive answer, when coupled with the fact that Dixon was located at the rear of a residence and was looking around, is a factor tending to establish probable cause."

588 So.2d at 906-07. See also Watts v. State, [Ms. CR-93-496, July 8, 1994] ___ So.2d ___ (Ala. Crim. App. 1994).

In Molina v. State, 533 So.2d 701, 707 (Ala. Crim. App. 1988), the Court said:

"We conclude that the police were

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cy in the film canister -- the law enforce-

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justified in stopping the Corvette on the reasonable suspicion of criminal activity. That suspicion ripened into probable cause when the police observed evasive action and furtive gestures on the part of the Corvette's occupants. 'although the initial stop of the suspect may have been justified only by reasonable suspicion, additional facts gathered from that stop may strengthen that suspicion into probable cause.' United States v. Martinez, 808 F.2d 1050, 1055 (5th Cir.), cert. denied, 481 U.S. 1032, 107 S.Ct. 1962, 95 L.Ed.2d 533 (1987). See Stanfield v. State, 529 So.2d 1053 (Ala. Cr. App. 1988). See also State v. Booth, 202 Neb. 692, 276 N.W. 2d 673, cert. denied, Booth v. Nebraska, 444 U.S. 982, 100 S.Ct. 485, 62 L.Ed.2d 409 (1973) (tip from citizen plus furtive gestures by suspect amounted to probable cause).

"'[T]he "furtive gesture rule" ... had its genesis in Terry and was expanded upon in Sibron[v. New York, 392 U.S. 40, 88 S.Ct. 1889, 20 L.Ed.2d 917 (1968)], which provides that a furtive gesture when coupled

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ment officers testified that film canis-

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with prior reliable information may constitute probable cause for search or arrest.' State v. Booth, 202 Neb. at 698, 276 N.W.2d at 676 (citations omitted).

> "'[D]eliberately furtive actions and flight at the approach of strangers or law officers are strong indicia of mens rea, and when coupled with specific knowledge on the part of the officer relating the suspect to the evidence of crime, they are proper factors to be considered in the decision to make an arrest.' [Sibron] v. New York, 392 U.S. 40, 66, 88 S.Ct. 1889, 1904, 20 L.Ed.2d 917 (1968)."

(Emphasis added.) In Stanfield v. State, 529 So.2d 1053, 1056 (Ala. Crim. App. 1988), the court said:

> "In this case, we find that the defendant's presence at the apartment being searched, when coupled with information known to the officers and the defendant's furtive movements in 'stuffing a little black pouch or a

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ters are commonly used as containers for

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> little black bag into the cushion of the chair,' provided the probable cause necessary to justify the search of the defendant's person. In determining whether the police had probable cause to search the defendant, we apply the 'totality of the circumstances' analysis of Illinois v. Gates, 462 U.S. 213, 103 S.Ct. 2317, 76 L.Ed.2d 527 (1983); Spann v. State, 494 So.2d 719 (Ala. 1986). 'We recognize that Gates dealt with probable cause for the issuance of a warrant.... This determination of probable cause, however, is applicable to both warrant and warrantless searches.' United States v. Mendoza, 722 F.2d 96, 100 n.5 (5th Cir. 1983). See also Whiteley v. Warden, 401 U.S. 560, 91 S.Ct. 1031, 28 L.Ed.2d 306 (1971)."

(Emphasis added.)

In Stanfield, the Court of Criminal Appeals quoted 2 LaFave, Search and Seizure §3.6(c):

> "'As the Supreme Court concluded in [Sibron] v. New York [392 U.S. 40, 88 S.Ct. 1889, [1912], 20 L.Ed.2d 917

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illegal drugs, and they have been the subject of searches dealt with in federal and state cases.[5] In fact, the fact

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(1968)],

> "'"deliberately furtive actions ... at the approach of strangers or law officers are strong indicia of mens rea, and when coupled with specific knowledge on the part of the officer relating the suspect to the evidence of crime, they are proper factors to be considered in the decision to make an arrest."'"

529 So.2d at 1058.

[5]See, T.W.H. v. State, 602 So.2d 481 (Ala. Crim. App. 1992); Jones v. State, 593 So.2d 155 (Ala. Crim. App. 1991); Robinette v. State, 531 So.2d 682 (Ala. Crim. App. 1987); Darby v. State, 516 So.2d 775 (Ala. Crim. App. 1985), rev'd. by Ex parte Darby, 516 So.2d 786 (Ala. 1987).

A Westlaw search, using the query "film /s canister /p search" located a total of 36 cases in the ALLFEDS database,
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that a person does not make a furtive

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several of which are published. See, e.g.:

United States v. Perrin, 45 F.3d 869 (4th Cir. 1995).

United States v. Wellman, 33 F.3d 944 (8th Cir. 1994).

United States v. Eastland, 989 F.2d 760 (5th Cir. 1993).

United States v. Nicholson, 983 F.2d 983, 37 Fed. R. Evid. Serv. 721 (10th Cir. 1993).

United States Pettit, 903 F.2d 1336, 30 Fed. R. Evid. Serv. 511 (10th Cir. 1990).

United States v. Melucci, 888 F.2d 200 (1st Cir. 1989).

United States v. Rodriguez, 869 F.2d 479 (9th Cir. 1989).

United States v. Hill, 864 F.2d 601 (8th Cir. 1988).

United States v. Nates, 831 F.2d 860 (9th Cir. 1987).

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motion can support that person's claim of

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United States v. Kolodziej, 706 F.2d 590 (5th Cir. 1983).

United States v. Hilton, 619 F.2d 127 (1st Cir. 1980).

United States v. Rettig, 589 F.2d 418 (9th Cir. 1978).

United States v. Thompson, 1992 WL 118302 (D.D.C., May 22, 1992) (NO. CRIM.A.92-026-01(RCL).

United States v. Gilmer, 793 F.Supp. 1545 (D. Colo. 1992).

United States v. Tracy, 758 F.Supp. 816 (D. Conn. 1991).

United States v. $46,559.00 in U.S. Currency, 758 F.Supp. 613 (D. Or. 1990).

United States v. Pettit, 1989 WL 19415 (D.Kan., Feb. 21, 1989) (NO. 88--20117-01).

United States v. Hill, 666 F.Supp. 174 (D.N.D. 1987).

Morale V. Grigel, 422 F.Supp. 988

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a right to privacy.[6]

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(D.N.H. 1976).

United States v. Cohen, 358 F.Supp. 112 (S.D.N.Y. 1973).

United States v. Wilson, 7 M.J. 290 (C.M.A. 1979).

United States v. Britting, 7 M.J. 978 (A.F.C.M.R. 1979).

United States v. Holsworth, 7 M.J. 184 (C.M.A. 1979).

[6]In Harris v. State, 568 So.2d 421 (Ala. Crim. App. 1990), the Court of Criminal Appeals reversed a conviction, concluding that the police had lacked sufficient reason to stop the defendant's motor vehicle. The court cited People v. Johnson, 64 N.Y.2d 617, 485 N.Y.S.2d 33, 474 N.E.2d 241 (1984), as standing for the proposition that the "fact that defendant was 'looking at houses' [was an insufficient basis for a stop] because 'there is little else to look at in a residential neighborhood, and there is no other testimony suggesting that his behavior was furtive or his movements unusual.'" 568 So.2d at 424 (Emphasis added.) Harris suggests
(Footnote Continued)

I believe that under the "furtive movement" test, applied to the facts of this case, the search and seizure of the film canister were reasonable, and I pose some questions to prove the point. Was the defendant's action deliberate? Obviously, it was. Was it furtive? Obviously, it was, "as understood by those versed in the field of law enforcement. " At the time, was he being confronted by a police officer? Yes. Did the furtive action suggest the concealment of contraband? Obviously. This Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals,

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(Footnote Continued)
that if there had been testimony that the defendant's behavior was "furtive" then the majority would have upheld the investigatory stop. Judge Bowen dissented from the reversal, expressing his view that the police officer had "reasonable suspicion to stop [Harris's] car." 568 So.2d at 425.

and federal courts have considered many cases involving the search of film canisters for contraband.

Viewing the totality of the circumstances, and weighing the evidence, "not in terms of library analysis by scholars, but as understood by those versed in the field of law enforcement," Cortez, supra, 449 U.S. at 418. I believe that the officers were justified here in stopping the persons congregated in front of a shot house in a high crime area for questioning[7], that they were justified in asking the defendant to allow them to see what he had in his pocket, and that they were justified in searching the film canis-

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[7]See Terry v. Ohio, 392 U.S. 1 (1968).

ter when the defendant put the film canister behind his back. In short, I believe that the search was reasonable, and I believe that this Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, and the Supreme Court of the United States have construed the provisions of the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States as I do. Consequently, I must respectfully disagree with the holding by my colleagues that "[t]he marijuana found in the film canister and in Mr. Tucker's automobile was the product of a warrantless search and seizure that were not within any of the exceptions to the warrant requirement. "__ So. 2d ___ at___.

Ingram, J., concurs.

## APPENDIX D

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA

June 9, 1995

1931358

Ex parte Eddie Jerome Tucker. PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS (In re: Eddie Jerome Tucker v. State) (93-325) (Tuscaloosa: CC-92-2215)

NOTICE

The application for rehearing filed in this cause is overruled. No opinion written on rehearing.

ALMON, J. - Hornsby, CJ., Shores, Houston and Cook, JJ., concur; Maddox, Ingram and Butts, JJ., dissent.

## APPENDIX E

## RELEVANT ALABAMA STATUTES

## CODE OF ALABAMA, 1975

### TITLE 13A

§13A-5-6. SENTENCES OF IMPRISONMENT FOR FELONIES.

(a) Sentences for felonies shall be for a definite term of imprisonment, which imprisonment includes hard labor, within the following limitations:

(1) For a Class A felony, for life or not more than 99 years or less than 10 years.

(2) For a Class B felony, not more than 20 years or less than 2 years.

(3) For a Class C felony, not more than 10 years or less than 1 year and 1 day.

(4) For a Class A felony in which a firearm or deadly weapon was used or attempted to be used in the commission of the felony, not less than 20 years.

(5) For a Class B or C felony in which a firearm or deadly weapon was used or attempted to be used in the commission of the felony, not less than 10 years.

(b) The actual time of release within the limitations established by subsection (a) of this section shall be determined under procedures established elsewhere by law.

§13A-5-9. HABITUAL FELONY OFFENDERS - ADDITIONAL PENALTIES.

(a) In all cases when it is shown that a criminal defendant has been previously convicted of any felony and after such conviction has committed another felony, he must be punished as follows:

(1) On conviction of a Class C felony, he must be punished for a Class B felony:

(2) On conviction of a Class B felony, he must be punished for a Class A felony:

(3) On conviction of a Class A felony, he must be punished by imprisonment for life or for any term of not more than 99 years but not less than 15 years.

(b) In all cases when it is shown that a criminal defendant has been previously convicted of any two felonies and after such convictions has committed another felony, he must be punished as follows:

(1) On conviction of a Class C felony, he must be punished for a Class A felony;

(2) On conviction of a Class B felony, he must be punished by imprisonment for life or for any term of not more than 99 years but not less than 15 years.

(3) On conviction of a Class A felony, he must be punished by imprisonment for life or for any term of not less than 99 years.

(c) In all cases when it is shown that a criminal defendant has been previously

convicted of any three felonies and after such convictions has committed another felony, he must be punished as follows:

(1) On conviction of a Class C felony, he must be punished by imprisonment for life or for any term not more than 99 years but not less than 15 years;

(2) On conviction of a Class B felony, he must be punished for life in the penitentiary;

(3) On conviction of a Class A felony, he must be punished by imprisonment for life without parole.

13A-12-213. UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIHUANA IN THE FIRST DEGREE.

(a) A person commits the crime of unlawful possession of marihuana in the first degree if, except as otherwise authorized:

(1) He possesses marihuana for other than person use; or

(2) He possesses marihuana for his person use only after having been previously convicted of unlawful possession of marihuana in the second degree or unlawful possession of marihuana for his personal use only.

(b) Unlawful possession of marihuana in the first degree is a Class C felony.